

**TOWN OF MERRILLVILLE  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

**CALL TO ORDER**

**Town Council President Joe Shudick called meeting to order.**

**INVOCATION:**

**Pastor Michael Brown-Living Grace Church**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLLCALL:**

All seven(7) members present.

**PETITIONS, COMMUNICATIONS, REMONSTRATIONS:**

**Mr. Shudick read a letter from the AARP regarding the free tax service they will provide for all senior citizens ages 60 & over from February 3<sup>rd</sup> thru April 15, 2009 on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Town Hall. For further information contact Senior Director Carol Miano at 736-8258.**

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

Accts. Payable Register Voucher Approval-Jaunary 13, 2009 with exceptions noted: 2 items to be modified: APV 89163 to be deleted-pager for EMA, canceling service. And 1 corrected \$238.00 from \$552.00 APV 89231. So moved with the corrections and approval by Mr. Hardaway and a second by Mr. Widing with the same. 7/0 voice vote to approve was made.

Approval of December 23, 2008 Town Council Meeting Minutes. Motion to approve was made by Mr. Goralczyk and a second by Mr. Hardaway. 7/0 voice vote to approve was made.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**BUDGET & FINANCE: NO REPORT**

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

**Mr. Hardaway wanted to know where we were at with the parked cars on the streets when plowing is needed. Vickie Bunnell is out ticketing. Mr. Sylwestrowicz mentioned that the stop sign at 53<sup>rd</sup> should be moved to 54<sup>th</sup> and Grant.**

**COUNCIL AFFAIRS:**

**Mr. Pettit made the motion to approve the Hearing Officer contract at \$135.00 per hour retroactive to 9-2008. Mr. Goralczyk second it. Motion to approve 6/0 with Mr. Sylwestrowicz voting no, he feels the Town Court should be handling this.**

**Mr. Pettit would like to make a motion to increase the hourly rate for Cohen & Thiros for all legal services from \$135.00 hr. to \$150.00 per hour. Mr. Hardaway second it. 7/0 voice vote to approve was made.**

**Mr. Pettit announced the Town Council Committee Assignments:**

**Budget & Finance:Chairman-Mr. Hardaway, Mr. Pettit and Mr. Goralczyk**

**Public Works:Chairman-Mr. Huish, Mr. Sylwestrowicz, Mr. Goralczyk**

**Council Affairs:-Chairman-Mr. Pettit, Mr. Hardaway, Mr. Widing**

**Personnel Policy & Employee Benefits-Chairman-Mr. Pettit, Mr. Hardaway, Mr. Widing**

**Public Safety-Chairman-Mr. Widing, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Goralczyk**

**Parks & Recreation-Chairman, Mr. Huish, Mr. Widing, Mr. Pettit**

**Environmental Affairs-Chairman-Mr. Goralczyk, Mr. Huish, Mr. Pettit**

**Elections & Public Relations-Chairman-Mr. Hardaway, Mr. Huish, Mr. Sylwestrowicz, Mr. Fink, Mrs. Weems**

**Economic Development-Chairman-Mr. Huish, Mr. Hardaway,Mr. Sylwestrowicz, Mr. Durnell, Mr. Laser**

**Utility Liaisons:Chairman-Mr. Widing, Mr. Hardaway, Mr. Sylwestrowicz, Mr. Goralczyk appointed to the Lake County Solid Waste District.**

**Mr Pettit is the NERPC Commissioner**

Redevelopment Commission- Mr. Hardaway-Mr. Goralczyk, Mr. Widing, Mr. Pettit, Mr. Huish  
Plan Commission:-Mr. Hardaway, Mr. Huish, Mr. Pettit, Mrs. Olthoff, Mr. Sturly, Mr. Dering,  
Mr. Minchuk

Board Of Zoning Appeals:Mr. Sterly, Mr. Guipe, Mr. Minchuk, Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Stojakovich

Storm Water Management: Ms. Gregor, Mr. Crist, Mrs. Ghoston

Merrillville Economic Development: Mrs. Olthoff, Mr. Minchuk

Mr. Pettit made the motion to approve and Mr.Hardaway second it. 7/0 voice vote to approve.

Mr. Huish made the motion to appoint Mr. Hardaway as Vice-President of the 2009 Town Council

And Mr. Widing second it. 7/0 voice vote to approve was made.

Mr. Pettit made the motion for Mr. Minchuk to be director of EMA and Mr. Sylwestrowicz second it.  
7/0 voice vote to approve was made.

#### **PERSONNEL POLICY & EMPLOYEE BENEFITS:**

Mr. Pettit made the motion to approve all retaining appointments as follows:

Storm Water Management Board: Current Member, Barbara Ghoston

Police Commission: Current Member, Rick Bella

Plan Commission: Current Member, Brian Dering

Plan Commission: Current Member, Julie Olthoff

Board of Zoning Appeals: Current Member, Charles Stojakovich

Mr. Lance Huish second the motion. 7/0 voice vote to approve was made.

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY:**

Mr. Petruch mentioned the new 911 dispatch center is moving along very well.

Council members wanted to recognize the new fire chief Mr. Ed Yerga. Mr. Yerga also wanted to know if the town submitted to FEMA reimbursement for the equipment used for the Sept. flooding which it was. Mr. Yerga was informed that the workshops are the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed. of every month at 6 p.m.

#### **PARKS & RECREATION: NO REPORT**

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS: NO REPORT**

#### **ELECTIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS: NO REPORT**

#### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:**

Mr. Huish would like to schedule a short meeting on the 27<sup>th</sup> of December at 6p.m.(right before the council meeting) to discuss and look over the CF1 Forms.

#### **UTILITY LIAISON: NO REPORT**

#### **GENERAL ORDERS:**

#### **FIRST READING ORDINANCES: NO REPORT**

#### **SECOND READING ORDINANCES: NO REPORT**

#### **RESOLUTIONS:**

#### **RESOLUTION 09-01**

A Resolution of the Town of Merrillville, Lake County, Indiana determining an emergency and authorizing and providing for a temporary inter-fund loan from the Merrillville Road TIF Debt Service Fund to the RDC Bond Debt Service Fund.

Mr. Hardaway made the motion to approve and Mr. Pettit second it. 7/0 roll call vote to approve was made.

#### **BZA ACTIONS**

Petitioner: Tammy Aboul-Hosn

Owner: Burke Real Estate

Request: Special exception approval in a M-1, Limited Industrial Zone

Purpose: Dance and Tumbling Studio (School)

Location: 8762 Louisiana Street, Suite 1

Case#: Z51E14-1008

Mr. Pettit made the motion to deny and Mr. Huish second it. Mr. Shudick asked if the petitioner was present and Ms. Gregor said she was not, but she spoke to petitioner who said she will fax over to Ms. Gregor a request to withdraw the petition. 7/0 voice vote to deny was made.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Mr. Pettit mentioned February 11<sup>th</sup> letting for 61<sup>st</sup>. Ave.**

**Mr. Pettit also has a list of the economic stimulus package requests submitted by all of the different communities to NERPC.**

**NEW BUSINESS: NO REPORT**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**All public comment is recorded on cassette tape and kept on file in the Clerk-Treasurer's Office at Town Hall.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Plan Commission Meeting-Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Town Council Workshop-Wednesday, January 21, 2009-Mr. Sylwestrowicz mentioned that the Ross Township Accessor would like to use this facility for training and Mr. Shudick said it would be ok as long as there was no conflict with court.

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**Ron Widing, Town Council President**

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**Eugene Guernsey, Clerk-Treasurer**